

Plymouth School Committee

November 5, 2007

A meeting of the Plymouth School Committee was held on Monday, November 5, 2007, at Plymouth Community Intermediate School at 7:00 p.m.

Members present were Linda McAlduff, John White, Margie Burgess, Nicole Manfredi, Dennis Begley, Debra Betz, and Robert Bielen.

Present from Administration were Barry Haskell, Gary Maestas, Dr. Carol Young and Robert Gurek.

Mrs. McAlduff opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. McAlduff offered a moment of silence for Eileen Bellingham, who served as a cafeteria worker at the Hedge and Mt. Pleasant Elementary Schools for 20+ years. Eileen passed away on October 16, 2007.

1.0 To receive comments from the general public.

None.

2.0 To receive comments from student representatives.

Lauren Williams from Plymouth South reported that thirty delegates attended the Fall Regional Student Council Conference. She noted redecorating the footprints on the driveway; Spirit Week, Powder Puff on November 20th with benefits toward the Food Bank and leadership scholarships; and a Pep Rally on November 21st. She reported that the Interact Club is organizing a two-week food drive and Marketing Education is hosting their Annual Fashion Talent Show on November 15th.

Kaitlin Wilson from Plymouth North High School reported on Homecoming on October 20th with a dance for all grades, that Oktoberfest was celebrated by seniors on October 19th, and noted the U. S. Conflicts class trip to the John F. Kennedy Library to learn about the Vietnam War. Lauren Maloney, also from Plymouth North, reported that ten student council members had attended a benefit luncheon for Senator Kerry that day; the boys and girls varsity soccer teams went to the State Tournament. She said that she and another student were nominated for the Wendy's High School Heisman Award, and she was one of three students recognized by NASA to attend a Pre-Launch Conference, where she learned about NASA plans and missions, had lunch with an astronaut, and was given a tour of NASA. Lastly, she reported that the Plymouth High School Orchestra played at a String Festival in Duxbury and was critiqued by the conductor of the Plymouth Philharmonic Orchestra.

3.0 To receive comments from the Education Association of Plymouth & Carver.

Mr. Riordan, President of the EAPC, reported meeting with the MTA for help in getting their website up and running, where they will post teacher contracts. He offered School Committee links to that website and access to that information on teacher contracts. He discussed the importance of open communication with the Town and noted a column he wrote for the Old Colony Memorial which he hopes to continue writing on a regular basis. Lastly, he noted a Level III grievance being presented at the next School Committee meeting.

4.0 Communications

4.1 Correspondence

Mr. White noted a memo from, and a letter to, Mary Mello, Mt. Pleasant Preschool Director, from Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation announcing Plymouth Public School's receipt of a Harvard Pilgrim Community Spirit 9/11 Mini-grant of \$500 for books on tape thanks to the community service efforts of Mary Silva on behalf of Mt. Pleasant Preschool. Mr. White conveyed thanks to Mary on behalf of the School Committee.

Mr. White read a memo from Bob Sherman, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, to Mr. Haskell announcing that Margie McEttrick-Maloney, R.N., was selected as Massachusetts School Nurse Administrator of the Year 2007, and has been nominated for the National Award. Mr. White congratulated Ms. McEttrick-Maloney and thanked her for her help and exceptional school health services.

Mr. White read a second memo from Mr. Sherman to Mr. Haskell announcing that Emma Quinn, part-time Assistive Technology Specialist at West Elementary, had been notified by the NEA Foundation that the Plymouth Public Schools was awarded a \$5,000 grant in Assistive Technology. Mr. White congratulated Ms. Quinn and thanked her for her hard work.

4.2 Retirements

Dr. Young noted 4 retirements: Carole Laliberte, Grade 5 Classroom Teacher at Plymouth South Middle School 34+ years; Helen Moneen Short, Guidance Counselor at Indian Brook Elementary School 34+ years; Mary Cox, Physical Education Teacher at PCIS 31 years; and Carol May, Grade 3 Teacher at Manomet Elementary 29+ years. Mr. White congratulated and thanked them for their years of dedicated service in providing

quality services to the children of Plymouth.

- 5.0 To receive a report on the PCIS HVAC project from the Building Committee.

David Peck, Chairman of the Building Committee, introduced Building Committee members Tom Fugazzi, John White, and Dennis Begley, as well as Project Manager, Ted Gentry, from Ted Gentry Associates, and Tom Finnegan, Clerk of the Works. Mr. Peck gave a PowerPoint presentation explaining the existing conditions at the school, recommendations, solutions, and the benefits of the renovations. Mr. Gentry discussed the NSTAR rebate system, the project budget, project timeline, and construction status. A tour of building renovations was given.

Meeting adjourned for tour of building renovations at 7:40 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 7:50 p.m.

- 6.0 To receive a list of School Committee policies to be revised and new policies developed for School Year 2007-2008.

Mr. Maestas introduced and thanked the Policy Subcommittee members, Mrs. Burgess and Mrs. Betz, for their work on policy review. He noted a list of policies to be reviewed and noted a Policy Retreat on November 21, 2007, at Central Office from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

- 7.0 To receive an Office of Educational Quality and Accountability (EQA) Report on Plymouth Public Schools.

Mr. Haskell presented the Educational Management Audit Council's EQA report, including background of EQA, the documentation process, what occurred after the EQA visit, a closer look at management quality, MCAS performance, as well as areas of improvement, areas of strength, and EQA conclusions. Mr. Haskell noted that results of the report indicate that Plymouth Public Schools is a high-performing school district. He indicated that a complete report would be released and available from EQA on the State website. A discussion of areas of improvement followed, including textbooks, math/algebra II, and a formal writing program. Mr. Maestas noted that the audit was a rigorous process and the district had done well.

- 8.0 To receive an Energy Management Program update.

Mr. Gurek gave a background on the Energy Management Program and noted over two million dollars in cost avoidance over nearly three years. Jay Tobin, Energy Manager, presented an overview and update of the District's Energy Management Program discussing the EMP scope, purpose and objective, EMP elements, communication and support. Also

presented was a comparison of EMP figures for FY06 and FY07, the district utility makeup, and the positive environmental impact. A discussion of bulk-rate use, fixed rates, and the use of energy consultants followed.

- 9.0 To receive recommendations relative to the following job description(s) and take the necessary action(s).

Dr. Young presented one new and two updated job descriptions for review. She thanked Mr. White and Mr. Begley for their work on the Job Description Subcommittee.

9.1 Director of Guidance and Remediation Services

Mr. Begley discussed the process of expanding and modernizing the Director of Guidance position to include MCAS remediation services. A discussion and detailed explanation of the history and development of this job description by Mr. Haskell and Dr. Young followed.

Motion by Mrs. Burgess to approve Director of Guidance and Remediation Services job description as stated, seconded by Mr. White. Vote to approve Director of Guidance and Remediation Services job description, as stated, was unanimous.

9.2 Instructional Technology Specialist

Mr. Begley noted the updates to the job description. After a brief discussion, Performance Responsibility No. 9 was changed to read, "Provides coordinator with inventories of software and specific technologies, computers, and peripheral equipment."

Motion by Mrs. Manfredi to approve Instructional Technology Specialist job description with changes, seconded by Mr. White. Vote to approve Instructional Technology Specialist job description with changes, was unanimous.

9.3 Evening School/Community School Program Director

Mr. White gave background on the job description that was expanded beyond Evening to include Community School Program. Mr. Haskell discussed the difference between the two, as well as the development of the Community School Program. Mr. Haskell and Dr. Young also discussed the direction, scope and evolution of the Evening School/Community School Program as it relates to the Director's responsibilities and management of the program.

Motion by Mr. White to approve the Evening School/Community

School Program Director job description, seconded by Mrs. Manfredi. Vote to approve Evening School/Community School Program Director job description was unanimous.

10.0 To receive recommendation(s) relative to the School Year 2007-2008 Home Education Program and take the necessary action(s).

- 10.1 #043-08
- 10.2 #048-08
- 10.3 #049-08
- 10.4 #050-08
- 10.5 #051-08
- 10.6 #058-08
- 10.7 #059-08
- 10.8 #062-08
- 10.9 #063-08
- 10.10 #070-08
- 10.11 #071-08
- 10.12 #072-08
- 10.13 #073-08
- 10.14 #085-08
- 10.15 #086-08
- 10.16 #089-08

Mr. Haskell presented the latest Home School recommendations for the 2007-2008 School Year indicating that all meet the State requirements minimally, and that Mr. Sherman reviewed each one and has met with each family to ensure each meets the requirements. Mr. Haskell recommended their approval.

Motion by Mrs. Burgess to approve all cases for 2007-2008 as presented, seconded by Mr. Begley. Vote to approve the Home School recommendations for the 2007-2008 School Year was unanimous.

11.0 To discuss high school space.

Mr. Haskell reported that he has heard nothing new from SBA noting that they are continuing deliberations. A brief discussion of SBA notification followed.

12.0 To discuss the FY09 budget and take the necessary action(s).

Mr. Haskell announced that Annual Town Meeting would be held on April 5, 2008, for non-budget items to be debated and acted on at that time and re-convened on June 9th and 10th to act on the budget in consideration of the Town's receipt of more accurate state aid projections. He noted that the Finance Committee would hold budget review sessions beginning on January 28, 2008; therefore, the School Committee budget workshop

schedule has been adjusted to December 3rd, 4th, and 5th, with a public hearing and School Committee adoption on January 7, 2008.

13.0 Reports

13.1 Calendar of Events

Noted were the budget workshops on December 3rd, 4th, and 5th (if necessary). Also, noted was the need for School Council meetings and other schools events to be reported for inclusion on the Universal Calendar.

13.2 To receive reports and proposals from Committee members.

Mrs. Burgess reported chaperoning 12 students to UMass Amherst on October 27th to participate with the Association of Music Teachers.

13.3 To receive a report from the Plymouth Permanent School Building Committee.

Nothing to report.

13.4 To receive a report from the Plymouth Building Committee.

Mr. White reported their next meeting is November 8th at 6:30 p.m.

13.5 To receive a report from the Communications Subcommittee.

Mr. Begley reported they discussed Channel 14 content. He noted improvements to the School Committee website, including a counter and more links to subcommittees, and he requested brief updates from subcommittee members, as well as PowerPoint presentations from PSC meetings. Mr. Haskell noted the current practice that Power Point presentations go through PSC, prior to posting on the website, and he invited discussion toward changing that policy. Channel 14 content was discussed, as well as the necessity of replacing Linda Reilly who is retiring, and the need to dedicate resources toward filling that position.

13.6 To receive reports and proposals from the Superintendent.

Mr. Haskell discussed the Plymouth Youth Development Collaborative Summit that he attended on October 29th, noting the value of developing follow-up programs to coordinate these services and make them available for students.

Mr. Haskell discussed meeting with the Land Review Committee to

discuss future land needs of Plymouth over the next 50 years, including potential future school sites.

13.7 Personnel

Dr. Young announced 25 appointments: 1 certificated, 17 classified, and 7 coaches/advisors. She also noted 9 resignations, and 1 leave of absence.

14.0 To receive minutes of the following meeting(s) and take the necessary action(s).

14.1 October 15, 2007

Motion by Mr. White to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Begley. Vote to approve the minutes was unanimous. Mr. Bielen and Mrs. Burgess abstained.

15.0 To receive a schedule of bills and take the necessary action(s).

Mr. Gurek recommended FY08 A/P Warrant #19 dated October 25, 2007, in the amount of \$965,301.69, and Warrant #21 dated November 8, 2007, in the amount of \$533,481.65. Motion by Mr. White to approve FY08 A/P Warrant #19 and Warrant #21 in the amounts stated, seconded by Mrs. Manfredi. Vote to approve FY08 A/P Warrant #19 and FY08 A/P Warrant #21 in the amounts stated is unanimous.

*16.0 To discuss strategies with respect to potential litigation pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 39, Section 23B(3) and take the necessary action(s).

Motion by Mr. White to go into Executive Session for the purposes stated, seconded by Mrs. Betz. On a roll call vote to go into Executive Session for the purposes stated, all voting in favor, approved unanimously.

Into Executive Session at 9:21 p.m.

Out of Executive Session at 10:15 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary